Riots - 1929

Maryland

CUVENANT IS NOT UPHELD MINISTER SAYS OF CHURCH

Baltimore Pastor Describes Its Responsibility

RIOT INEXCUSABLE

Religious Bodies Urged To Hasten Understanding

Baltimore, Md.—Churches were charged with inexcusable laxity in race riots by the Reverend Dr. Peter Ainslie, this city, and a member of the Commission on the Church and Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches, in a recent interview dealing with riots between whites and Negroes in Princess Anne, Md. and North Platte, Neb.

"One cannot help but inquire, where are the churches?" he declared. "There must be churches in those towns. What good are they? Is it possible for them to escape the responsibility of crime and its consequences.

Have Solemn Covenant

"The United States Government pays the churches of this country more than $2,000,000,000 annually to check crime and set up moral standards. By this I mean that all church properties are exempt from taxation to that extent. It is a solemn covenant between the Government and the churches.

"Every race riot indicates that the churches have failed to keep their part of the covenant. They have been doing other things than contending against crime and setting up moral standards that have to deal with racial understanding.

"A race riot in a fair country like our Eastern Shore is inexcusable. They have churches and courts and fair-minded men. Why they should resort to a riot and brutal injustice to deserving Negroes is hard to understand.

Human Race Chiefly Colored

"The churches of the Eastern Shore have a task to make racial understanding a primary factor in their work instead of giving so much attention to their denominational doctrines which at best are secondary factors for community betterment. One of the biggest tasks of Christians is to establish racial understanding. Two-thirds of the human race is colored and one-third white. The colored races in all parts of the world are rising from subordinate places to higher positions of service and, consequently, there is friction in many instances. This is a reminder to us that attention has been given to other things of less importance than racial understanding, which is at a more critical stage now than in any period of the world's history."

MARYLAND VILLAGE DRIVES OUT NEGROES

Princess Anne, Md., July 14.—(AP Negroes were a minus quantity here today following a clash with whites last night, during which the former were driven from the town with clubs, guns, billiard cues, bricks and other weapons following a fight between a negro and a white man.

The trouble was precipitated after the fight, when an ultimatum was delivered to negroes that they keep to one side of the main street. Sporadic outbursts, consisting of missles thrown from one side of the street to the other, were culminated when a white girl was struck by a bottle said to have been thrown by a negro.

It was then that the negroes were driven from the streets, and state police sent here to patrol the streets after a call from the local police force.

Whites have announced their intention of enforcing their demand that negroes cease congregating on the streets on Saturday night.

Riots—1929

Nebraska

COURIER-EXPRESS
BUFFALO, N. Y.

JUL 17 1929

MOB LAW

Governor Weaver of Nebraska has demanded the safe return to North Platte of negroes, numbering about 200 and constituting that city's entire negro population, whom a mob drove out last Saturday. The attorney general of the state is investigating the racial disturbance that followed the killing of a policeman by a negro. Some of the refugees have returned and North Platte reports that no further trouble is expected.

On the face of it, therefore, the situation in North Platte appears now to conform to the decencies of civilized law. But one must wait and see how the investigation results before deciding whether Nebraska has done her best not simply for the present safety of North Platte's negros but for the safety of all her citizens from mob law.

If the North Platte mob was like the ordinary mob in racial troubles, it was composed largely of boys and loafers. With nothing to do and some excitement offered, they started their man hunt. When that had been accomplished they turned on all negro citizens, good as well as bad, and drove them out. Doubtless the members of the North Platte mob will go undiscovered and unpunished. Or does Governor Weaver intend to extend his demand so as to include action to apprehend them?

TIMES.
Thomasville Ga
JUL 18 1929

ought in many cities.

NORTH PLATTE'S RACIAL DISORDERS

The colored citizens of North Platte, Nebraska, has been badly treated. The negroes were ordered by a mob to leave and they got out in a hurry. They left with the same degree of celerity that is always manifested by those who in the minority are threatened with real evidences of violence.

This is a race matter. The Nebraska city was in error. It did not discriminate between one negro criminal and all negroes, many of whom may be lawabiding and useful citizens. But the mob spirit took hold of the community and the negroes were told to leave and the telling was so convincing that they took to their heels to save their skins.

No Chicago Tribune tirade against North Platte, however, will cover the situation. It was a wanton and unfair procedure, no matter how deep the provocation was against the negro murderer, unless the rest of the negroes were violent or created a racial complex that might flare into race rioting and kindred disorders.

The negro has no better friend than the man who denies to him racial equality but at the same time gives him ample reason to feel that he is being humanely, justly and considerately treated. The South has demonstrated that doctrine. The negro's worst enemy is the agitator, who would, for political or prejudicial reasons, attempts to create in his mind the desire to unqualifiedly demand social equality.

When he listens to this siren call he is courting trouble and that very soon, no matter whether he lives in North Platte, Atlanta or Boston. The same principle of civilization exists and it is going to be preserved, despite the attacks and base efforts on the part of placating political fools to upset it.

OMAHA N.A.A.C.P. ACTIVE IN PROTECTING NORTH PLATTE NEGROES

New York, Aug. 2, 1929—Details of the recent rioting at North Platte, Nebraska, during the course of which the Negro citizens were driven from their homes, and activity of the Omaha Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. in this case were made public here today. The facts given are contained in lengthy reports made to the National Office of the N. A. A. C. P. by Dr. John H. Singleton, President of the Omaha Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. and former member of the Nebraska State Legislation, and by H. J. Pinkett, prominent Omaha attorney.

First knowledge of the trouble at North Platte was brought to Mr. Pinkett by a Pullman porter, member of the Pullman Porter Brotherhood, who went to Omaha, sought out Mr. Pinkett and informed him before news of the riot had reached the newspapers that the colored population of North Platte was being driven from town. Mr. Pinkett promptly sought to commuuicate with the Governor and on finding that he was enroute to his home city some distance away, talked with the Lieutenant Governor and Attorney-General Sorenson. This occured on the Saturday night of the riotings. The Attorney-General acted promptly and dispatched special investigators to the scene to go thoroughly into the matter and to procure evidence against the rioters. On Sunday afternoon Dr. Singleton called together representatives of various civic bodies and a Committee was appointed to call upon the Governor. This Committee held a long conference with Governor Arthur Weaver at Lincoln on Monday. At Lincoln the Omaha delegation was joined by one made up of colored citizens of Lincoln. The prompt action of the Omaha and Lincoln Branches of the N. A. A. C. P. resulted in the gathering of evidence through special investigators sent to North Platte by the Omaha Branch and in the protection of the lives and property of those Negroes who were run out of the city. Pillage by the mob and the efforts of certain merchants from whom the Negroes were buying furniture on the installment plan who rushed in to seize the furniture were checked by the action of the N. A. A. C. P.

There is some question in the minds of the colored people of Nebraska as to whether or not Louis Seeman, who is alleged to have committed suicide after killing a policeman, which act led to the rioting really committed suicide. There is the suspicion that this man was murdered by the mob and the report of suicide put out to avoid liability under the anti-mob law which was passed by the 1927 Nebraska Legislature. Rumors to this effect are being traced to their source to see if there is any foundation in fact for them.

Among the colored people of Nebraska the feeling is very strong that Attorney C. A. Sorenson is all right and will stand up. There is the feeling also that the newspapers have been eminently fair in this case.

The National Office of the N. A. A. C. P. is following closely all developments and is prepared to render aid to its Nebraska Branches who are cooperating with Attorney-General Sorenson to the end that the rioters may be convicted and sentenced to prison.

NEGRO PROBLEM LOOMS

This negro problem is looking up as more than a merely local question for the South. A few days ago out at North Platte, Nebraska, a negro killed a policeman; then the mob started to form; the negro was trapped in a house and refused to surrender, doubtless terriorized by the thought of what might happen to him. When the crowd set fire to the house to burn him out, then he killed himself. The other 225 negroes living in that town were terriorized, and they all left town immediately, any way they could get out.

Over in a little town in Maryland, Princess Anne, 300 negroes were ordered to leave the place by the white people—trouble had been brewing for some time.

This negro Congressman from Chicago, De Priest, feeling his oats to such an extent that he has lost his head, has been doing apparently all he could to incite a false class consciousness on the part of the negroes, and it has a bad effect on them. He says he will offer some bills in Congress to create a federal board to enforce the election laws in the Southern states where the negroes do not now vote to any great extent, and all that kind of foolishness. Of course he won't get anywhere, but he is doubtless doing a lot of damage to his own race.—Window Seat.

NEGROES FLEEING NEBRASKA TOWN

Infuriated Mobs Order All Blacks From North Platte After Slaying of Policeman.

Atlanta Constitution
7-16-29
Atlanta Ga

North Platte, Neb., July 13.—(AP)—Negroes here began leaving North Platte by automobile, trains and other conveyances this afternoon as a result of threats by a mob which formed after Edward Green, a policeman, had been shot and killed by Louis Seelman, a negro.

Seelman later shot and killed himself, but the mob that formed at his home retained its formation despite efforts of police to break it up. Threats of violence were heard as member of

the mob shouted orders to negroes to leave town at once. Some of them left on foot.

The shooting grew out of an attempt by Green to arrest the negro, who had previously been ordered to leave town in lieu of paying a $100 fine for beating Ada Miller, negress with whom he lived. He went to Ogallala and came back this morning. The woman then notified police. Green and another officer went to arrest him.

Green was shot with a sawed-off shotgun as he entered Seelman's room. Officer Fitzgibbons, who accompanied him was unarmed. He gave an alarm downstairs and stood watching the front of the house. Help came and when Seelman refused to come out, a gasoline fire was set around it. Later Seelman could not be found. Finally he was discovered under a trap door. Again he refused to come out of the small basement room and gasoline was poured over the trap door. Seelman then shot himself as the flames began to creep about him. He died while being carried out of the house.

North Platte was up in arms. The mob formed outside the house grew with the passing of the hours. Sticks were wielded. Police immediately swore in extra men and patrolled the negro district. They estimated there were about 200 negroes in the city before they started their outward trek. The negroes were also guarded on their departure.

The Miller woman left by automobile for Council Bluffs, Iowa, police said. Other negroes said they were bound for Kearney, Neb., Julesburg, Colo., Denver and Omaha.

Green was a popular policeman here. He had served on the force for five years as a patrolman, and also as acting chief.

What aroused the populace was the suspicion that some of the negroes had aided Seelman in hiding himself under the trap door leading to the basement.

When he returned this morning, just before the Miller woman notified police, he was supposed to be alone in the house.

A carpet and several newspapers, however, were found to have been placed over the trap door. Police discovered this when they placed gasoline around the door, in the second attempt to drive Seelman out of hiding.

The information leaked out rapidly and soon there came shouts: "Lynch them all," and "Get them out of town, quick." Subsequently the negro colony was told to clear out by 3 p. m. The outward trek was orderly but was accomplished cautiously. Police guarded nearly every road the negroes took, and assigned men to the railroad stations. In some instances police had to threaten members of the mob, to protect the negroes.

All of the colony were given time to get what personal belongings they had. A few owned their own houses. The negroes, gathering up what belongings they could carry, "hit the road," others walked the railroad tracks, while the more fortunate left in their automobiles and some bought railroad tickets. Soon there was a general movement of all negroes outward bound, and the North Platte populace looked on with watchfulness lest some go a short distance and then turn back, seeking to return to their homes. Police were assigned to watch the depopulated negro colony through the night and members of the mob said they were determined to watch the roads and railroads for any returning negroes.

Negroes Leave On Mob Order

Trek Begun After Killing Of Nebraska Cop

NORTH PLATTE, NEB., July 13.—(AP)—Negroes here began leaving North Platte by automobile, trains and other conveyances this afternoon as a result of threats by a mob which formed after Edward Green, a policeman, had been shot and instantly killed by Louis Seelman, a negro.

Seelman later shot and killed himself, but the mob that formed at his home retained its formation despite efforts of police to break it up. Threats of violence were heard as members of the mob shouted orders to negroes to leave town at once. Some of them left on foot.

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SAFE RETURN OF NEGROES DEMANDED

Attorney General Starts Probe Of Racial Disturbances In Nebraska

NORTH PLATTE, NEB., July 15.—(AP)—With Gov. Arthur Weaver demanding the safe return to the city of negroes driven out by a mob late Saturday, and Attorney General C. A. Sorenson starting an investigation into the racial disturbances, authorities here tonight expected no further trouble as the refugees returned to the city.

The city's entire negro population of 200 was driven out of town by an infuriated mob after one of their number had shot and killed Edward Green, a policeman. The killer, Louis Seeman, surrounded by the mob in his home, committed suicide.

Several negroes returned late yesterday and more were coming into the city tonight. Gov. Weaver ordered State Sheriff N. C. Condit to take charge of the situation and Sorenson has sent Lloyd Dort, assistant attorney general to conduct an investigation.

The attorney general informed local authorities he would "prosecute the case to the limit." He indicated some arrests might be made immediately.

In issuing his order to North Platte officials, Gov. Weaver said:

"All negro residents of North Platte must be permitted to return and must be assured of immunity from any recurrence of the Saturday outbreak."

Sheriff A. J. Salisbury and Chief of Police Kames Dorram declared every effort was being made to prevent any violence.

"It is our duty to protect all citizens," the sheriff said, "and we will protect all negroes who return to the city."

A large number of citizens have been deputized to assist police officers.

Although the mob swarmed through the negro section Saturday, no violence was done and the negroes were permitted to leave the city unharmed.

DE PRIEST SEEKS NEW LAW

CHICAGO, July 15.—(AP)—Introduction in Congress of a Federal election law is promised by Oscar De Priest, negro representative at Washington from Illinois.

In his first speech in Chicago on national racial questions since his elevation to Congress, De Priest told a negro audience last night his proposed bill would put national elections in the hand of government election boars. De Priest was introduced as the lone representative in Washington of the 12 million negroes in the United States.

"I am fighting," said De Priest, "not for social equality, but for equality under the law. The prosperous colored folks in the North must rescue the disfranchised black peons of the South before we can say the negro of America is free.

"I am going to continue by tour through the South, notwithstanding threats I have received. I'm going to try to teach the colored people of their rights under the Constitution."

Riots - 1929

New York

NEW YORK MOBS INJURE NEGROES IN RUNNING FIGHT

New York, July 21.—(AP)—Eight bruised, bleeding and frightened negroes were arrested today after a crowd estimated by police at nearly 1,000 chased them a mile through streets of the lower East Side and residents pelted them with missles thrown from windows.

Constitution Atlanta 7-22-29

The trouble started when the negroes, laughing and shouting, climbed into a taxicab parked in Clinton street and attempted to drive away. They attacked two white men who ordered them out of the cab. A crowd collected and charged the negroes and in the melee that followed a 16-year-old boy was cut about the head.

The din aroused residents of the neighborhood and pots, pans, bricks and assorted odds and ends were rained upon the negroes from Clinton street windows. The negroes fought themselves free and ran, but at every turn they found themselves attacked from another direction.

They had run more than a mile through half a dozen streets before police reserves arrested them. They were charged with felonious assault and as each carried a large pocket knife, some of which police said were bloodstained, the negroes also were charged with violating the Sullivan law.

Historical (Houston)

Riots-1929

ne 24th Infantry Martyrs

From The Palmetto Leader, Columbia, S. C.)

In 191[illegible], soon after this country declared war against Germany, a gang of unreasoning and narrow-minded citizens of Texas by their mean and unjust treatment of the soldiers of the 24th Infantry provoked a fight between them and this crack regiment or rather some of the members of the regiment, of course, as was to be expected the soldiers got decidedly the best of it. However, later the soldiers were courtmartialed. Some few were sentenced to death, many to life imprisonment and still others to varying terms of imprisonment. A careful investigation however, of the whole incident, revealed that these soldiers were without fault in bringing on the trouble and therefore the punishment visited was for the most part unjust and inflicted rather because these soldiers happened to be Negroes.

The N.A.A.C.P. at once took up the cudgel in behalf of these men who were suffering rather because of their race than for any real crime. The result was a tardy application of justice thru the prole system. After 2 years, there remains only one of the original great number in the prison to which they were sent. Negroes in general may not appreciate the N.A.A.C.P. and the great and needful work it is doing in combating injustice because of race, but we venture the assertion that the 24th Infantry believes in it, or at least those young men who owe their liberty to its activity